



Legislative Testimony
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**Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 6918, An Act Concerning
Erasure of Criminal History Records**

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am writing to testify in support of House Bill 6918, An Act Concerning Erasure of Criminal History Records.

The ACLU-CT is an organization dedicated to ending mass incarceration, eliminating racial disparities in the criminal legal system, and reducing harms to justice-impacted people. All people, including those who have been convicted of a crime, deserve equal opportunity to contribute to society and build successful and fulfilling lives. Unfortunately, the mere fact that a Connecticut resident has a criminal conviction in their history puts more than 550 legal barriers in their path.¹ Moreover, it creates innumerable barriers to full civic participation. In 2021, the ACLU-CT supported Clean Slate, a bill that automatically erases criminal records after a defined conviction-free period. House Bill 6918 makes clarifying changes to Clean Slate to increase its coverage. We support House Bill 6918, and urge this Committee to do the same.

¹ National Inventory of Collateral Consequences of Conviction, https://niccc.csgjusticecenter.org/database/results/?jurisdiction=260&consequence_category=&narrow_category=&triggering_offense_category=&consequence_type=&duration_category=&page_number=1; see also Kelan Lyons, *Council Begins Study of Discrimination Against People with Criminal Records*, CT MIRROR (Aug. 22, 2019), <https://ctmirror.org/2019/08/22/council-begins-study-of-discrimination-against-people-with-criminal-records/>.